

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR GLORIA MOLINA

May 14, 2013

Each year, approximately nineteen billion plastic carryout bags are consumed in California, the equivalent of 1,600 bags per household per year. Less than five percent of those bags are recycled, with the remainder disposed in landfills as litter on beaches, waterways, parks and roads. Due to their lightweight nature, single-use plastic carryout bags are disproportionately more likely to end as litter. Plastic bag litter makes up as much as twenty-five percent of the litter stream and significantly impacts communities and the environment. In Los Angeles County alone, local and State governments spend tens of millions of dollars each year on litter prevention, stormwater infrastructure cleanup, and enforcement activities, including single-use bag litter. In the last few years, Los Angeles County has lead the efforts to ban single-use plastic bags and many more local governments throughout the County followed our lead including the City of Los Angeles.

The County of Los Angeles supports efforts to increase plastic bag recycling and reduce usage of plastic carryout bags. In addition, the County of Los Angeles, as well as other local government entities' right to adopt, implement, and enforce regulatory

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Molina _____

Yaroslavsky _____

Knabe _____

Antonovich _____

Ridley-Thomas _____

action in order to achieve waste diversion goals and policies, should not hampered.

Senate Bill 405 (SB 405) would enact into State statute provisions emulating the Single-Use Bag Reduction Ordinance adopted by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors in November 2010. Specifically, it would phase out the use of single-use plastic carryout bags at supermarkets, pharmacies, and other food-related retailers similar in definition to those identified by the County, while also requiring those stores to make reusable bags available to consumers and to place a charge on paper bags, if paper bags are provided to customers.

If enacted, SB 405 would further assist local governments to reduce the amount of plastic carryout bags that are disposed of or littered, thereby reducing blight and other environmental impacts associated with such litter and improving the quality of life of County residents. Additionally, the Bill would help alleviate unsightly litter throughout the region as well as the costs associated with the removal of it, and mitigate the costs of compliance with the Federal Clean Water Act. The Bill would also establish a Statewide standard for reusable bags which is very similar to the standard established by the County.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

Support SB 405 if amended to indicate that the Bill would not preempt stricter bag ordinances that local jurisdictions have enacted. This is consistent with the County's current State Legislative Agenda (Section 2.7) to "support legislation which reduces the environmental impacts of single-use carryout bags and decreases the financial burden on local governments to address those impacts, including legislation which seeks to promote the use of reusable bags, reduce the use of plastic or paper carryout bags, and/or increase at-store recycling of carryout bags."

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